

**Media Release
22 March 2007**



ACL Harmony Day event a great success

More than 2,300 ACL students and their families enjoyed a celebration of harmony and diversity at Sydney Olympic Park to mark annual Harmony Day yesterday (Wednesday 21 March).

ACL, the largest provider of high quality English language education in Australia, hosted the country's biggest Harmony Day event at Bicentennial Park, Sydney Olympic Park, recognising the successful integration of migrants and refugees.

ACL Group Managing Director Helen Zimmerman said the event was a huge success and reiterated the importance of encouraging Australians to say no to racism and to celebrate the achievements of our newest Australians.

The event supported the Federal Government's initiative "Living in Harmony" and provided an opportunity for ACL students to celebrate their heritage, integrated with the Australian way of life and culture.

Speakers at the event included SBS Television World News Australia presenter Anton Enus, Blacktown MP Paul Gibson and Auburn Mayor Le Lam. NSW Cricket and NSW Fire Brigades also took part in the event. Entertainment included face painting, clowns, balloon artistry and a jumping castle for children. There were also performances by a Middle Eastern band, Vietnamese dancers and African drumming and dancing.

ACL has been working since 1998 to educate and settle newly arrived migrants and refugees as part of the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP). As the only language program of its kind in the world, the AMEP is hailed internationally for its contribution towards the successful settlement of migrants in Australia.

"Many migrants and refugees who come to Australia learn the English language and are helped to settle in and make a success in the community through the services of ACL," Ms Zimmerman said.

"Not only do these migrants and refugees learn the English language, they also learn to integrate into Australian society and contribute to the economy. I am very proud of our students, their fierce determination to provide a new life for their families and contribute to Australia's future prosperity."

ACL works actively to assist in rebuilding these people's lives and provides support and skills for them to contribute to the economy and community of Australia.

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